



United States Department of Agriculture

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the Chief
Information Officer

1400 Independence
Avenue SW
Washington, DC
20250

March 14, 2019

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Austin R. Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW
Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

Re: Final Response for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 2019-DA-00457-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the Departmental FOIA Office's (DFO) final response to the above-referenced FOIA request, seeking "records that will shed light on whether and to what extent USDA is engaged in the response efforts to the risks posed by the hog lagoons[,]" under the following parameters:

All e-mail communications from September 1, 2018, through September 30, 2018, between all political appointees in the following USDA offices:

- a)The immediate Office of the Secretary;
- b)The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights;
- c)The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations;
- d)The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety;
- e)The immediate Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation;
- f)The Risk Management Agency; and
- g)The Farm Service Agency's Office of the State Executive Director of North Carolina,

And any of the following offices and persons:

- i) Congressman David Rouzer or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Melissa Murphy, Jason Cooke, and Ian Whitson;
- ii) Congressman Mark Walker or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Scott Luginbill, Ryan Walker, and Joshua Woodward;
- iii) Congressman Richard Hudson or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Chris Carter, Preston Bell, Kayla Dolan, and Shaun Taylor;

- iv) Congressman George Holding or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Tucker Knott, Curtis Rhyne, and John Caison;
- v) Congressman James Clyburn or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Yelberton Watkins, Craig Link, and Lin Whitehouse;
- vi) Congressman Patrick McHenry or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Jeff Butler, Matt Mulder, Chris Worrell, and Krista Stafford;
- vii) Congressman G.K. Butterfield or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Troy Clair, Saul Hernandez, Kyle L. Parker, and Dennis Sills;
- viii) Congresswoman Virginia Foxx or anyone from her office, including but not limited to Cyrus Artz, Carson Middleton, and Jason Harvey;
- ix) Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr. or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Joshua Bowlen, Bradley Ryon, and Bryan Martin;
- x) Congressman Greg Walden or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Lorissa Bounds and Riley Bushue;
- xi) Any staff member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee, including but not limited to Mike Bloomquist;
- xii) Senator Richard Burr or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Natasha Hickman, Christopher Toppings, Mykel Wedig, John McDonald, Angela Wiles, and anyone whose email ends in @burr.senate.gov;
- xiii) Senator Thom Tillis or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Ted Lehman, Courtney Temple, Corey Brown, Bill Bode, and anyone whose email ends in @tillis.senate.gov; or
- xiv) Senator Tim Scott or anyone from his office, including but not limited to Jennifer DeCasper, Charles Cogar, Shay Hawkins, Emily Lavery, Kate Hunter, and anyone whose email ends in @scott.senate.gov.

On October 22, 2018, American Oversight's request was routed to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (OASCR), the Risk Management Agency (RMA), and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for processing and direct response for those portions of the request for which they may maintain records.

A search for responsive records was conducted by the Office of the Chief Information Officer's (OCIO) telecommunications provider, Client Experience Center (CEC). This provider performs network services for OCIO to include electronic messaging operations, electronic calendars, blackberry, mobile device management (MDM), file and print, remote access, voice, network, service desk, and other application services. The email

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accounts for the following USDA employees were searched for responsive correspondence with the offices and persons identified in American Oversight's request.

Office of the Secretary:

Secretary Sonny Perdue
Deputy Secretary Stephen L. Censky
Ray Starling, Secretary's Chief of Staff

Office of Congressional Relations:

Ken Barbic	Kelsey Barnes
Evan Lee	Lindsay Moore
Jordan Bonfitto	Kailee Tkacz
Lillie Brady	Brock Densel
Anna Osterlind	Misty Giles
Robert MacGregor	Peter Bachmann
Erin Wilson	

Office of the Undersecretary for Food Safety: Jacob French

Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation:

Bill Northey
Jamie Clover Adams
Andrew Fisher

No responsive records were identified as a result of the search.

You may appeal this determination by email at USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov, or by mail to the Assistant Secretary for Administration at 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Whitten Building, Room 209-A, Washington, D.C. 20250-0103. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The DFO will not consider appeals received after the 90 calendar-day limit. Appeals received after 5:00 p.m. EST will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above, a copy of the original request, the DFO's response to your original request, and a statement explaining the basis of your appeal. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

You may seek dispute resolution services from the DFO's FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Ravoyne Payton at USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of

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Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll-free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. You also have the option to seek assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Please visit <https://ogis.archives.gov/mediation-program/request-assistance.htm> for information about how to request OGIS assistance in relation to a FOIA request.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of processing your request. In this instance, no fees will be charged.

If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact Ms. Camille Aponte at (202) 694-5260, or electronically at Camille.Aponte@ocio.usda.gov or USDAFOIA@ocio.usda.gov. For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and processes, please refer to the information available online at www.dm.usda.gov/foia.

The DFO Team appreciates the opportunity to assist you in this matter.

Sincerely,



Alexis R. Graves
Departmental FOIA Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer